

November 13, 2015

Chairman Ron Ehli and Members  
Child, Family, Health and Human Services Interim Committee  
Montana Legislature  
Montana State Capitol  
1301 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Chairman Ehli and Members:

RE: Support for the "Train and Retain" Initiative for a Psychiatric Training Track

Big Sky Economic Development hereby extends its support to Dr. Eric Arzubi's Initiative—A Plan to Train and Retain Psychiatrists in Montana. We had the pleasure of working with Dr. Arzubi on our recent Big Sky Business Healthcare Forum. His work in this area was very impressive to our business leaders, and more so, was the bottom line reality of the impact of mental health disorders on business, workforce, and Montana's economic future.

Montana's mental health crisis is first a personal and family issue, touching so many lives in every community of the state, and in too many cases ending a life prematurely. Yet this is also an issue impacting Montana's economic future. The results of untreated mental disorders cost Montana businesses and workers through lost productivity, attrition, workplace morale, and added costs in related healthcare services. It's reported that untreated depression and anxiety in Montana's workforce, costs all of us \$650 million in lost economic output/productivity. So we all share in the economic costs of Montana's mental health crisis.

We can't afford to think of this issue only in the broader economic terms and lose sight of the fact that psychiatric disorders will develop in 50% of our workforce at some point in their lives. Meaning that every business in the state of Montana will have multiple workers that will need treatment and available psychiatric care throughout the life of that business. The lack of consistently available mental healthcare adds an extra burden to Montana's already significant workforce challenges. We absolutely must view our investment in mental health services as an investment in workforce development.

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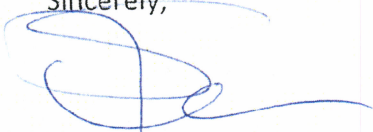
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Ex. 9

Therefore, Big Sky Economic Development encourages your support and investment in The Train and Retain Initiative. It will work in partnership with the University of Washington and the Veterans Administration, and help to "train and retain" four psychiatrists in Montana every year. The benefits from this program will be life changing for so many Montanan's and their families, and will strengthen Montana businesses and their workforce.

Thank you for your sincere consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Arveschoug", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steve Arveschoug  
Executive Director

CC: BSED Board of Directors  
Dr. Eric Arzubi, MD